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EXAMINER

TESFAMARIAM, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2764

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9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

RA

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/244,550

Applicant(s)

Brichta et al

Examiner
Mussie Tesfamarlam

Group Art Unit
2764



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jun 30, 2000

☒ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the applicat

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-16, 20-23, 32, 33, 35, 38-40, 42, and 58-63 is/are rejected.

☒ Claim(s) 11, 12, 17-19, 24-31, 34, 36, 37, 41, and 43-57 is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 6

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

2. Claim 1, 2, 4-8, 16, 20, 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140.

As per claim 1, Knudson et al disclose in informational data associated with accounts, projects, and programs. See the abstract, fig 1-2, fig 4, col 2, lines 1-4, col 3, lines 28-33. He also discloses in financial data associated with the accounts, projects, and programs. See fig 2, fig 4, col 1, lines 16-20, col 2, lines 42-46, col 4, lines 12-14, col 11, lines 16-20. He also discloses in schedule and progress data associated with the accounts, projects, and programs. See the abstract, fig 1-2, fig 4, col 1, lines 9-15, col 2, lines 2-4, 42-45. He also discloses in data associated with personnel, roles, and security access information. See fig 3, col 6, lines 8-40, col 11, lines 21-24, 32-34. He also discloses in data associated with translating progress milestones defined in the projects to tactics defined in the system. See col 11, lines 38-40, col 12, lines. He also discloses in update data associated with the progress, actual expenditures, and labor resources of the projects and programs. See the abstract, col 6, lines 26-29. He also discloses in at least one user interface operable to display data stored in the program office according to a predetermined security

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scheme based on the security access information stored in the program office database, and further operable to receive the update data on a periodic basis. See fig 2, 3, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

As per claim 2, Knudson et al disclose in relational data structures. See fig 1, fig 2, and fig 4.

As per claim 4, Knudson et al disclose in at least one user interface comprises at least one self-extracting executable user interface. See col 6, lines 15-22.

As per claim 5, Knudson et al disclose in at least one user interface comprises at least one program office interface. See col 1, lines 51-60, col 4, lines 42-50.

As per claim 6, Knudson et al disclose in the program office database comprises more than one copy of the data residing in more than one distributed databases. See fig 1, fig 2, fig 3, fig 4, col 1, lines 16-19.

As per claim 7, Knudson et al disclose in the user interface comprises more than one copy of the user interface residing in more than one distributed computing system. See the abstract, fig 1, col 6, lines 27-30, col 10, lines 45-48.

As per claim 8, Knudson et al disclose in the data associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit. See the abstract, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

As per claim 16, Knudson et al disclose in the data associated with translating progress milestones comprise a data table operable to map milestones predefined in a project to milestone

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categories predefined within the program office database. See fig 1, col 11, lines 38-40, col 12, lines.

As per claim 20, Knudson et al disclose in the informational data comprise a project table operable to store informational data associated with at least one project identified by a project identifier. See col 4, lines 51-54, col 5, lines 1-3.

As per claim 23, Knudson et al disclose the schedule and progress data comprise a milestone actual table operable to store an amount of progress into a specific milestone for a given project. See the abstract, fig 1, fig 4.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Gary Hamel et al.

As per claim 3, Knudson et al disclose in at least one user interface comprises personal computers, servers, server networks. See col 3, lines 1-11. However, he fails specifically to disclose in a web-based user interface. Gary Hamel et al disclose in a web-based user interface. See PP 81-82. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it will use web. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to be web integrity.

5. Claim 9, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Bates William.

As per claim 9, Knudson et al disclose in the associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit. See the abstract, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54. However, he fails specifically to disclose in having a senior management role within the business unit. Bates William discloses in having a senior management role within the business unit. See PP 2. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have a senior management role within the business unit. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an organized business method.

As per claim 13, Knudson et al disclose in the associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit. See the abstract, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54. However, he fails specifically to disclose in having manager capable of having authorization to update account data and project data. Bates William discloses in having manager capable of having authorization to update account data and project data. See PP 1-3. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to

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modify Knudson's system such that it have a manager capable of having authorization to update account data and project data. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an accurate data.

As per claim 14, Knudson et al disclose in the associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit. See the abstract, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54. However, he fails specifically to disclose in a role definition of a project manager capable of having authorization to update project data. Bates William discloses in a role definition of a project manager capable of having authorization to update project data. See PP 1-3.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have a role definition of a project manager capable of having authorization to update project data. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an accurate data.

6. Claim 10 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140 as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of PMBK.

As per claim 10, Knudson et al disclose in the data associated with security access information of personnel. See col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

However, he fails specifically to disclose in definitions of an hierarchy of roles. PMBK discloses in definitions of an hierarchy of roles. See fig 1-1, fig 4-1, fig 5-1, fig 6-1, fig 7-1. Therefore, it

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would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have an hierarchy of roles. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an organized roles of data in the program office database.

As per claim 15, Knudson et al disclose in the data associated with security access information of personnel. See col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

However, he fails specifically to disclose in definitions of an hierarchy of roles. PMBK discloses in definitions of an authorization hierarchy of roles. See fig 1-1, fig 4-1, fig 5-1, fig 6-1, fig 7-1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have an hierarchy of roles. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an authorized data.

7. Claims 32, 35, 38-40, 42, 60-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140 in view of PMBK.

As per claim 32, Knudson et al disclose in storing and accessing data associated with at least one project in a program office database, including informational data, financial data, schedule and progress data associated with the at least one project. See the abstract, fig 1-2, fig 3, fig 4, col 1, lines 9-15, 16-20 col 2, lines 1-4, 42-46, col 3, lines 28-33, col 4, lines 12-14, col 6, lines 8-40, col 11, lines 16-24, 32-34. He also discloses in identifying persons associated with the at least one project. See the abstract, fig 1, col 5, lines 1-5. However, he fails specifically to disclose in a role hierarchy roles associated with data access, assigning at least one role relevant to the at least one project to each person. PMBK discloses in a role hierarchy roles associated with data access,

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assigning at least one role relevant to the at least one project to each person. See PP 1, fig 1-1, fig 4-1, fig 5-1, fig 6-1, fig 7-1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have an hierarchy of roles. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have hierarchy roles integrity.

As per claim 35, Knudson et al disclose in the data associated with security access information of personnel. See col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

However, he fails specifically to disclose in definitions of an hierarchy of roles. PMBK discloses in definitions of an authorization hierarchy of roles. See fig 1-1, fig 4-1, fig 5-1, fig 6-1, fig 7-1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have an hierarchy of roles. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an authorized data.

As per claim 38, Knudson et al disclose in the associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit. See the abstract, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54. However, he fails specifically to disclose in having manager capable of having authorization to update account data and project data. Bates William discloses in having manager capable of having authorization to update account data and project data. See PP 1-3. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have a manager capable of having authorization to update

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account data and project data. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an accurate data.

As per claim 39, Knudson et al disclose in the associated with security access information of personnel comprise an assignment table associating a person to at least one role defined within a business unit. See the abstract, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54. However, he fails specifically to disclose in a role definition of a project manager capable of having authorization to update project data. Bates William discloses in a role definition of a project manager capable of having authorization to update project data. See PP 1-3.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have a role definition of a project manager capable of having authorization to update project data. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an accurate data.

As per claim 40, Knudson et al disclose in storing and accessing data comprise storing and accessing data stored in at least one relational database. See the abstract, fig 1, fig 2, and fig 4.

As per claim 42, Knudson et al disclose in the data associated with security access information of personnel. See col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

However, he fails specifically to disclose in definitions of an hierarchy of roles. PMBK discloses in definitions of an authorization hierarchy of roles. See fig 1-1, fig 4-1, fig 5-1, fig 6-1, fig 7-1.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention

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was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have an hierarchy of roles. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an authorized data.

As per claim 60, Knudson et al disclose in storing data at least one other data source. See col 3, lines 32-34. He also discloses in retrieving the data source. See col 10, lines 4-5, col 12, lines 37-38. However, he fails specifically to disclose in verifying data in the program office database with the data from the at least one other data source. Official notice is taken that verifying data in the program office database with the data from the at least one other data source is old and well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to include verifying data in the program office database with the data from the at least one other data source because this would improve Knudson's system to have a verification process.

As per claim 61, Knudson et al disclose in storing data at least one other data source. See col 3, lines 32-34. He also discloses in retrieving the data source. See col 10, lines 4-5, col 12, lines 37-38. However, he fails specifically to disclose in using the data from at least one audits. Official notice is taken that using the data from at least one audits is old and well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to include using the data from at least one audits because this would improve Knudson's system to have a better auditing method.

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As per claim 62, Knudson et al disclose in storing data at least one other data source. See col 3, lines 32-34. He also discloses in retrieving the data source. See col 10, lines 4-5, col 12, lines 37-38.

8. Claim 33, and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140 in view of PMBK as applied to claim 32 above, and further in view of Bates William.

As per claim 33, Knudson et al disclose in identifying persons further comprises an update authorization level to each person. See the abstract, fig 1, col 5, lines 1-5, col 6, lines, col 6, lines 26-28. However, he fails specifically to disclose in having a senior management role. Bates William discloses in having a senior management role. within the business unit. See PP1-3. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it have a senior management role. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to have an organized business method.

As per claim 59, Knudson et al disclose in storing and accessing update data comprise storing the update data via a self-extracting spread sheet-based user interface implementing a security scheme using the role and update authorization level assignment to the users. See col 6, lines 15-30.

9. Claim 58 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140 as applied to claim 33 above, and further in view of Gary Hamel et al.

As per claim 58, Knudson et al disclose in storing and accessing the data comprise storing and accessing data via personal computers, servers, server networks. See col 3, lines 1-11. However,

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he fails specifically to disclose in a web-based user interface. Gary Hamel et al disclose in a web-based user interface. See PP 81-82. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Knudson's system such that it will use web. This is because it would improve Knudson's system to be web integrity.

10. Claim 63 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Knudson et al, 5765140.

As per claim 63, Knudson et al disclose in informational data associated with accounts, projects, and programs. See the abstract, fig 1-2, fig 4, col 2, lines 1-4, col 3, lines 28-33. He also discloses in financial data associated with the accounts, projects, and programs. See fig 2, fig 4, col 1, lines 16-20, col 2, lines 42-46, col 4, lines 12-14, col 11, lines 16-20. He also discloses in schedule and progress data associated with the accounts, projects, and programs. See the abstract, fig 1-2, fig 4, col 1, lines 9-15, col 2, lines 2-4, 42-45. He also discloses in a personnel data associated with persons having responsibility associated with the projects and programs, the personnel identifier for each person. See col 5, lines 17-28. He also discloses in data associated with personnel, roles, and security access information. See fig 3, col 6, lines 8-40, col 11, lines 21-24, 32-34. He also discloses in data associated with translating progress milestones. See col 11, lines 38-40, col 12, lines. He also discloses in update data associated with the progress, actual expenditures, and labor resources of the projects and programs. See the abstract, col 6, lines 26-29. He also discloses in at least one user interface operable to display data stored in the program office according to a predetermined security scheme based on the security access information stored in the program

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office database, and further operable to receive the update data on a periodic basis. See fig 2, 3, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

Allowable Subject Matter

11. Claims 11-12, 17-19, 24-31, 34, 36-37, 41, 43-50, 51-57 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Response to Amendment

12. Applicant's arguments filed on 06/30/2000 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive with respect to claims 1-63.

13. The Applicant argues that claims 1, 32 Knudson does not disclose a dynamic project management system that includes a server network and a master database. The applicant also argues that knudson is limited to teaching the use of assignments tables to maintain and adjust assigned tasks and time schedules for identified users. The examiner disagrees. During examination that Knudson, 5765140 discloses in a dynamic project management system that includes a server network and a master database. See the abstract, fig 1-2, fig 4, col 2, lines 1-4, col 3, lines 28-33, fig 3, fig 4, col 1, lines 16-20, col 2, lines 42-46, col 4, lines 12-14, col 11, lines 16-20, fig 3, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

14. The Applicant argues that claim 63 Knudson does not disclose in "a system for managing at least one program including a plurality of projects, comprising at least one program office database storing. Again the examiner disagrees. During examination that Knudson, 5765140 discloses in "a system for managing at least one program including a plurality of projects, comprising at least one program office database storing. See fig 3, fig 4, col 1, lines 16-20, col 2, lines 42-46, col 4, lines 12-14, col 11, lines 16-20, fig 3, col 5, lines 18-25, col 6, lines 27-30, col 7, lines 40-46, col 10, lines 48-54.

15. Therefore, all dependent claims are rejected due to their dependency on the rejected base claims.

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Conclusion

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

A. Wolters, Jr. et al, 5826252 October 20, 1998. A system for managing multiple projects of a similar type has a global project management database for storing data for all participating projects which is dynamically updated with best current data representing best current practices across all participating projects in the system.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Mussie Tesfamariam** whose telephone number is **(703)305-1393**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the **examiner's supervisor, Jim Trammell** can be reached at **(703) 305-9768**.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or **faxed to:**

(703)308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Application/Control Number: 09244550

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Or:

(703)308-5357, (for informal or draft communications, please label

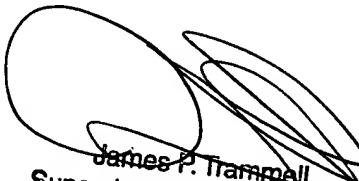
“PROPOSED” or “DRAFT”)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **Crystal park II, 2121 Crystal Drive**

Arlington, Virginia, (Receptionist).

Mussie Tesfamariam

September 11, 2000



James P. Frammell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2700